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OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

STATE

OF

THE COLONY.

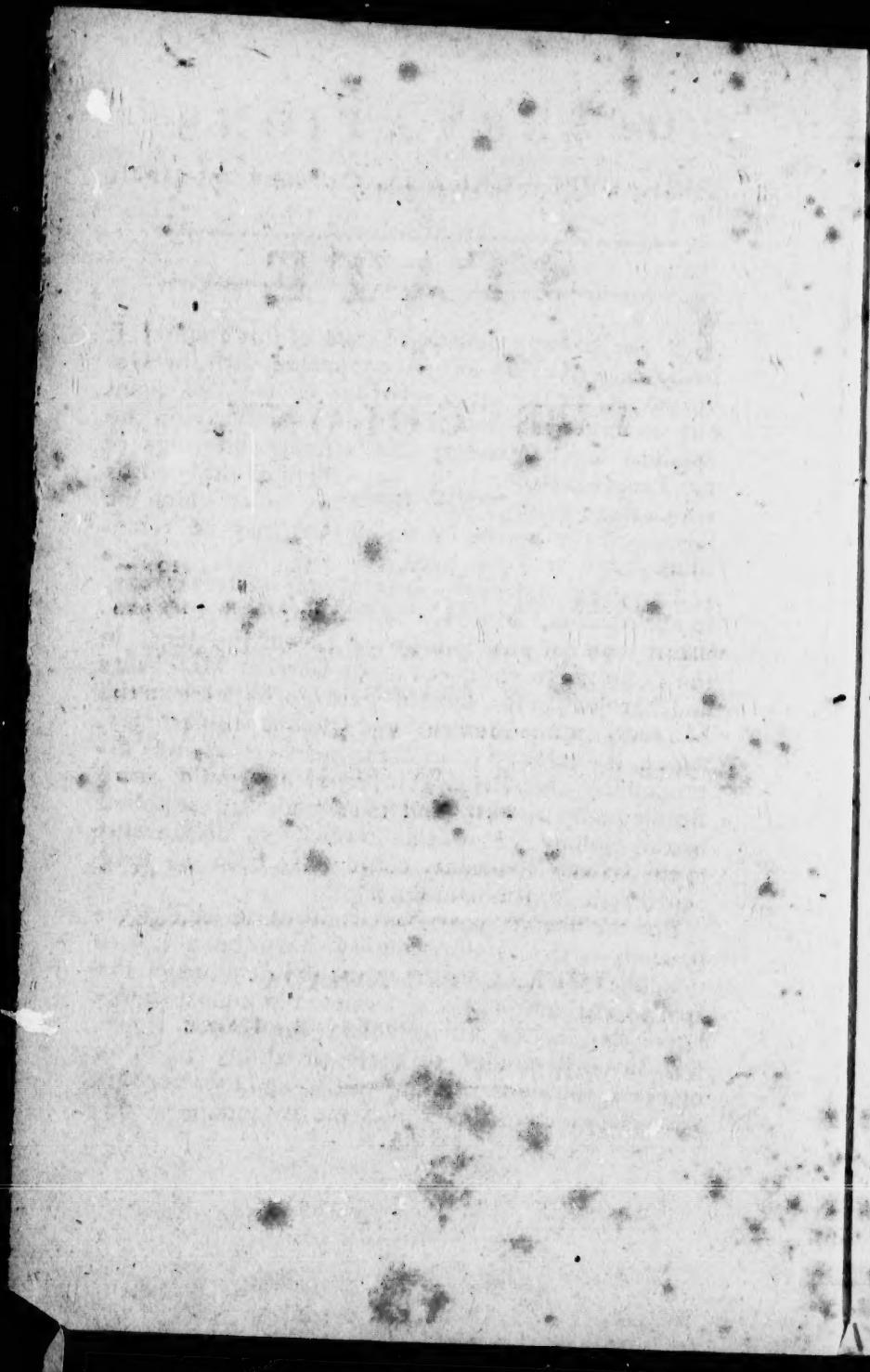
THE ONLY WAY TO PROMOTE TRUE RELIGION—
THE PROPER WAY TO IMPROVE THOSE MEANS
WHICH ADD TO THE INSTRUCTION, CONVENIENCE,
AND HAPPINESS OF THE PEOPLE, IS, TO "DO UNTO
ALL MEN, WHATSOEVER YE WOULD THAT MEN
SHOULD DO TO YOU: FOR THIS IS THE LAW AND
THE PROPHETS."

BY J. CAREY.

YORK, UPPER-CANADA:

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1821.



YORK, UPPER-CANADA, OCTOBER 1st. 1821.

STATE OF THE COLONY.

IN the present distressed state of this country, it is the duty of every Person connected with the Government, or the interests of the Colony, to point out whatever may suggest itself, which may, in the smallest degree, tend to alleviate the sufferings of the People; either by an exposition of the causes which have brought on the evils under which we labour, or the means by which they may be remedied.

The great and vital cause of our distress may, in our opinion, be traced to that impolitic and predatory system pursued by the Lower Province, in the encouragement given to the Lumber Merchants and Farmers of the United States, who were in the habit of glutting Montreal and Quebec with articles, which, if excluded from their markets, as was intended by the British Government, would have been equally as well, and as abundantly supplied by this Colony. How this traffick, so disgraceful to the Lower Province, could have been so long continued, is astonishing.

For the last six years the whole of the benign intentions of the Mother Country, have been lost to this, but they have, contrary to the intentions of the British Parliament, been possessed in a most superlative degree, by our friends in the United State, who in consequence of their proximity to those markets, their enterprising spirit, and the encouragement given to them, had the advantage of en-

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tering them in the cream of the season, and reaping great benefits before our lumber and produce could make their appearance ; the result of which was, that the property of our Merchants appeared as a drug ; they had either to accept of the terms offered by the Merchants below, or lay it up for the ensuing season, in the hope of obtaining a better price : and, in the long run, it was frequently sacrificed to defray the expenses of wharfage and warehousing, or to avoid the charges occasioned thereby.

It is really a matter of no small surprise, to read the resolutions entered into by our enslavers in the Lower Province. What can be more insulting to the inhabitants of this Province, than the liberty they have taken in linking us in their resolutions ? Who is the Merchant or Farmer in this Colony that authorised them to do so ? and where is the man whose apathy, whose torpor, whose self-degradation is so great, as to apply to the freebooters of our rights, to make use of our sufferings, in the hope of obtaining those privileges, which their avarice deprived us of ? and which, if obtained, would be immediately transferred to Americans.

The Lower Canada merchants have stated, in their resolutions, our distressed situation ;—we do not blame them for that statement, because it is true ; but we blame them for not going a little farther ; they might surely have stated some of the causes from which the distress had arisen ; they might have said, that, in the shipment of lumber, &c, the growth and produce of the U. States, as Canadian, they deprived us of receiving during the last five years, two millions of dollars ; that whilst our pat riot members of former parliaments, [we wont say the present, as it would be ‘unparlia-

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mentary'] were grovelling about the best means of beggarizing servants, to please their constituents, by the lopping off of miserable salaries, or passing bills to keep a few dollars in the country, they never contemplated upon the necessity of bringing any in by depriving the Americans, as they ought to have done, of the large sums annually paid them: no, poor things, they remained, like the swaggering officers of a Tower, directing the sentinel to guard the flag-staff, whilst the enemy was springing a mine under its foundation.

By their resolutions they profess to feel a great interest for the welfare of this province; they impudently propose (Oh, hypocrisy!) addressing the parliament of Great Britain, upon our ruinous situation; but they have not said one word about the wretched engines that effected it; they have not stated, that, whilst they were giving every encouragement to the enemies of our country, they were doing all in their power to beggar and enslave us.

It is the right, the undoubted right of these gentlemen to address the government of Great Britain, and to profess an anxiety for our welfare, altho' they fraudulently withhold 60,000*l.* of our money, in the hope of obtaining permission to carry on their former pursuits,—that of depriving us of our trade, and the crown of its Revenues; but they are much mistaken if they suppose that they can gloss over their foul actions to this Colony, whilst gentlemen intimately connected with his majesty's ministers, well acquainted with the transactions of past years, are on the spot to expose their duplicity; and who can and will state, that they have like vultures preyed upon the very vitals of our country.

We are sorry that the situation of this Colony, is as described by the Lower Canadian Merchants.

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Almost every countenance wears the picture of dependency. In this Town, within the space of a few months, new houses have been sold at Sheriff's sales, for one third of the money they cost in building. Cows, that would have brought 12 months ago, from 20 to 26 dollars, are now selling from 10 to 14. Oxen and horses bear a like reduction. Executions have been as numerous during the last year, as they were the previous 2; and farmers that contracted debts, cannot obtain any thing for their produce to liquidate them. In such a season of distress it is the duty of the government to ease, as much as possible, the condition of the People. It may be asked what can they do to benefit the Country at a period of such general distress; we answer, let the money that comes into the Province remain in it, let such as comes into the hands of government be laid out in the improvement of roads and bridges, draining of swamps; and in the erection of public buildings, which we stand greatly in need of, let the fees upon land,-- those high fees, which, to our knowledge, have thinned our numbers, and, thrown wealth and talent, and what is more, industry and enterprise, into the bosom of the U. States, be reduced to the same scale, as when Gov. GORE withdrew from the government of the Colony, and the advantages arising therefrom will be incalculable to this country. Let not the unfortunate emigrant, who is impelled by the binding and indissoluable ties of nature, to quit his dearest, his only friends, and native land, in the hope of obtaining a situation in this country whereon he may, by hard and enterprising industry, procure an humble maintenance for himself and family, have his heart wthung with disappointment. The Governor, in his address to the Parliament,

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held out every encouragement for subjects to emigrate to this country. The Government of Great Britain proclaim to their suffering subjects, that, upon their emigration to this Colony, they will receive "a GRANT of LAND from his Majesty proportioned to their means of cultivation." Under these circumstances they proceed, but upon their arrival they have the mortification to discover, and really when it is too late with many of them, that the word "GRANT," which is understood to BESTOW in Great Britain, is, we presume, not by a perversion, but by a misunderstanding of the English language, to FURCHASE in Canada ! and that instead of obtaining land proportioned to their means of cultivation, they are supplied with just as much, as is proportioned to their means of purchase ! and purchased very often too, and not unfrequently by persons of this class, who are ignorant of the country, at a price far beyond what is asked by landholders in the most eligible situations.

It appears by a paper now before us, that a discussion had taken place in the House of Commons, upon voting a sum to defray, for this year, the expenses of the civil administration of this Province. From the language of members, it would appear, that they had no knowledge whatever of any fees being paid by emigrants, not even the trifling incidental fees of the offices ; the Chancellor of the Exchequer appeared silent on the subject ; but this is no reason why the House should not be put in possession of facts, which must astonish some of it's members, as much as it blights the almost hopeless prospects of the unfortunate emigrants that suffer by them. They, at least some of them, must think it incredible, when

they are informed of the real situation of this Colony, that a man possessing capital, from the ruinous situation of Farmers, can purchase an improved Estate for less money, than the Government obtains for their wild lands when sold to needy emigrants, on credit, at an interest of 6 per cent, payable in advance, as was the case in the late sale of several thousand acres, which were struck off at from 3 to 7 dollars per acre; that the lands located by Emigrants, and after which they have to travel from 30 to 100 miles from the seat of Government, or a market town, and pay from 50 to 100 per cent for the transportation of provisions, &c. are subject to the fees marked in schedule A. independent of settlement duty, which incurs an additional expense of 2 shillings per acre; the whole of which fees is lost to this Colony, and appears to be unheard of by the British Parliament, or our suffering brethren that arrive here.

In offering these remarks to the public, we are not actuated by any hostile feeling to any one of the Council, whose amiable and exemplary characters we admire; and no person can be more willing to give them credit for the virtues which adorn such of their private lives as we have a knowledge of, than we are. They have, to our knowledge, suppressed those tears which flowed from the fountains of misery; they have extended relief, in the most secret manner, to those, who were reduced, by sickness, penury, and the gnawing sting, in that state, of being in a land of strangers, to the last stage of human woe; and knowing this, and believing that it is their greatest ambition, not only to benefit the Emigrants of Great Britain, but mankind in general, it would be disgraceful in

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us, to offer any thing offensive to their feelings ; or to imagine, for a moment, that they are the authors of the evils of which we complain, and which, we trust, for the sake of humanity, the dignity of human nature, and the honour of the British name will be remedied : No, we are actuated solely for the good of the Colony we reside in, and in the hope of satisfying some of the members of the British Parliament, particularly those *sapient one's*, who are of opinion, "that it would be better for England if the Colony were sunk in the Ocean," that, for every shilling paid by the Mother Country, in support of the interest of this Colony, and about which there appears so much cavil, it is repaid tenfold by the unfortunate emigrants, who have been deceived by Johnston, Sheridan, Walker, and all the other worthies, authors of dictionaries, by their *erroneously* stating that the word "GRANT" was to *BESTOW*.

That word is well understood in Great Britain to convey that meaning, but here, the Poor Man, the stranger, the wandering subject, with a numerous family, have to pay dearly for it, by the *novel* interpretation in this part of the world.

We beg our readers to enquire into the meaning of this deceptive word, as hundreds have suffered by it :—If it means the purchasing of Lands, under the delusive term of fees, then, we say, the word honour must imply fraud, treachery, and injustice.

What have been the baneful effects of those fees to this Colony ? They are these, under the Gore system ; and so long as it was credited by the People at home, the fees were the same as when he withdrew from the Colony, our population rapidly increased, wealth, prosperity, and contentment, accompanied them in their march ; but since he left the Colony, the fees have been encreased to such

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an extent, that they nearly, perhaps wholly, amount to a prohibition of emigration. The system, in fact, benefits no person but the large Landholders; they are the persons, and the only persons, who derive advantage from it; for unless for those high fees, they could not find purchasers. We are happy that none of the Hon. members of the Council, have large tracts of Land; they cannot reap any benefit by jobbing; nor have they, their public servants, or those who attend them in a "*private capacity*," attended the auction of the Mohawk, & Gore Lands, in the *honorable capacity* of puffers! no, we rejoice that this charge does not come home to them; on the contrary, they are sufferers by the system; for the daily and numerous appeals that are made to their humanity, by Emigrants in distress, draw from two of them, to our knowledge, & perhaps from the whole, large sums of money.

Our Parliament, we have no doubt, intends, for the wrongs we have suffered by the Sister Colony, in pocketing our share of the duties received at the Port of Quebec, and the encouragement given to the Farmers and Lumber Merchants of the U. States, to address his Majesty's Ministers next Session. They boasted much of their willingness to encourage, protect, and foster emigration to this Colony.—A fine field now lies open to display their patriotism and humanity; and we trust their constituents will press upon their attention the necessity of addressing his Majesty upon the high fees paid by emigrants. The sums paid in this manner are not only ruinous to the Emigrants, but injurious to the Country; whereas, if the Emigrants obtained their lands in the manner held out to them in Great Britain, and as understood by the word "**GRANT**," it would occasion an influx of emigra-

tion, and might be the means of saving to the Mother Country, the thousands of pounds expended in sending them to the Cape of Good Hope.

Our readers must recollect the Speech of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, upon the subject of emigration the Session before last ;—he then stated, “ The British Provinces in America were overloaded with emigration, that the strongest remonstrances had been made on the subject by the government of Canada. It proved a very great grievance both to the government and to the People, and under these circumstances, he thought it would be highly premature to adopt any plan for the promotion of emigration to that Colony.”

Our readers will observe, that this language was used long, very long, after Gov. Gore, [a gentleman who was, in fact, a real friend to the Country,] withdrew from the Province ; and, if we may place any confidence in the word of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the remonstrance must have been sent home during the Administration of President Smith, one of the Council ; or Sir P. Maitland, who, in his address to the House, upon the opening of last Parliament, made use of the following words—“ You will concur in promoting the interests of true religion, and in improving all those means which can add to the instruction, convenience, or happiness of the People. Nor will you overlook those which tend to increase the health and power of the Country. These objects have been unusually advanced by the late emigration from the Parent State. The increased population of the Province has given to all these objects an additional interest. Within the last two Years, 40 Townships have been surveyed, and in a great measure ‘ bestowed’ on conditions of actual set-

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"lement. To provide the means of defraying the charge of survey, which it was necessary to prosecute on a scale for the support of which the Revenues of the Province would not have sufficed, had naturally become to me a matter of great anxiety. I have therefore, real pleasure in informing you, that the system which has been adopted (paying the Surveyors in Land, by a per centage on the Land surveyed,) for that end, continues to meet the exigencies; and still enables me to perform the services without any demand upon the finances of the Country."

We beg our readers to mark well the development of opinion upon this highly important subject. His Excellency (to whose family we wish prosperity, and under whose Administration we hope the Country will be blessed,) informs the people of this Province, thro' our virtuous Representatives, "that our suffering Brethren, the Emigrants, have provided a source of wealth and power to the Colony." Mr. Vansittart says, (but mind he speaks from the remonstrance sent home by the Colonial Government,) "that they have proved a very great grievance to the Government and the People."—Here, then, we have the melancholy fact before our eyes, of two great men contradicting each other on a subject of vital importance to the interests of this Colony. Every Man acquainted with the fees paid by Emigrants, and their improving the Lands of the Crown, need not be told that they have proved a source of wealth and power to the Government; nor is it necessary to state, that the high fees charged upon Land, which should, in part, be applied in improving the roads and bridges of the Country, are a serious injury by their being taken from the well-drained pockets of the poor and heart-broken

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strangers, and sent out of the Colony.

His Excellency congratulates himself and the Country upon the *survey of 40 Townships within the last two years*; and which in a great measure, have been bestowed upon actual settlers; but he has not said one word about the immense sums which must have been paid, and carried out of the Country upon the settlement of them; nor have our honorable and enlightened members, whom we pay for attending to our interests, demanded an account of them!

During the last Session, we had the honour of conversing with some of our Members upon subjects interwoven with the welfare of the Province, and the happiness of those People who arrive here with letters from the Colonial Office. They thought with us, as every Man, who has a mind, and a feeling heart, must think, that those fees were, in many instances, destructive to the hopes of the Emigrant, and a vital wound, in the present distressed state of the Colony, to our interests. They admitted the necessity of addressing the Government of Great Britain upon the subject; but having heard that it was "*unparliamentary*," and "*unprecedented*," to interfere in the granting and bestowing the Lands of the Crown, or to question the right of the high fees charged thereon, they *patriotically* declined it.

Nothing, in our opinion, can appear so weak in the mind of a Man professing a knowledge of the British Constitution—a Constitution which is the "*pride, envy, and admiration of the World*," acquainted with the illustrious characters that guide the helm of the State, and their generous and humane intentions towards our interests, as that of supposing for a moment, that it would be deemed *unparliamentary*, or offensive by them, or the Hon.

Gentlemen who compose the Councils of his Majesty in this Province, in endeavouring to remedy an evil, attainable by a respectful address to our most gracious Sovereign: No, it could not be either offensive, or unparliamentary, to apply for an account of those fees, in order to shew to a Sovereign whose heart abounds with humanity, that in consequence of their payment, many, very many, of his best subjects suffer the greatest privations.

The word "*bestowed*," is as pervertible as the word "*grant*;" they both imply the same meaning, and are subject to the same windings. We would, therefore, like to be informed, if the words "*bestowed upon actual settlement*," are intended to imply, that these lands were giving out without the payment of fees, or whether the grantees have been subjected to the fees laid down in Schedule A. This information will be gratefully received, as it will enable us to place before our suffering Countrymen, previous to their departure from Europe, what they may have to expect upon their arrival amongst us. Surely the terms *grant* and *bestow*, which are synonymous, cannot apply to those who purchased their rights by services in the Navy, Army, and Militia, who pay the fees of the offices. They bought them dearly; and we cannot discover what description of Settlers those were, that have been blessed in the manger described by his Excellency.

The Governor called upon the House to promote true religion, and improve those means which could add to the instruction, convenience, and happiness of the People. This is certainly a recommendation worthy of a christian, and of which every man must approve; and we sincerely lament that the House did not meet his Excellency in this humane recom-

mendation, by an appeal to our Sovereign. It could neither be *unparliamentary* nor *unconstitutional* to state to his Majesty, that many of those Persons who had "proved a source of wealth and power to the Country" arrived amongst us in the most forlorn state; that, to enable them to obtain 100 acres of Land, they had to sacrifice their Clothes, their Family Bibles, and Prayer Books!—those sacred gifts of their Parents, and had to enter the Forest without the means of purchasing a Cow to afford nourishment for their offspring.

It could not be offensive or unparliamentary to represent to his Majesty, that the system at present pursued, if it did not tend to subvert true religion, it diminished those means which *added to the instruction, convenience, and happiness of the People*; and that the high fees charged upon land prove, at least, as great a *grievance* to the People who pay them, as to the government who has the fatigue and trouble of receiving them; which according to our conception, is the only way the latter can be aggrieved.

It could not be unparliamentary, or unconstitutional, to state to his Majesty, that the Lands "granted" to Emigrants, in the obtaining of which, they sacrificed their time, their prospects, and, very often, their health, are subject to restrictions, and fees which amount to more than the lands would actually sell for, if owned by a private individual.—These things, we presume, might be done by our virtuous representatives, without destroying *true religion*, or diminishing those means which add to the *instruction, convenience, and happiness of the People*. They could not, in our opinion, be either unparliamentary or unprecedented. They could hardly fail of demonstrating to his Majesty the im-

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policy and destructive tendency of the present system, as well as their own fitness to discharge the important duties, for which they were elected.

A Colony like ours, which has so much to GRANT, as the word is understood in Great Britain, would be certainly enriched by the misfortunes of the Mother Country, providing there was nothing in its conduct to give offence, not to a Radical, but to a constitutional mind; and whether those circumstances, which we have and shall state, the truth of which cannot be questioned, be sufficient to sour the mind of the Emigrant, and put a total stop to emigration, the Public alone is able to judge.

It must be obvious, if we can place any confidence in the word of Mr. Vansittart, whose sincerity, in all cases, where the subject is an object of consideration, cannot be doubted, that the present system has been planned and proceeded upon without the unanimous consent of his Majesty's Ministers. In support of this, let us carry in our mind the system pursued by the Parent State at the present time, and up to the period of those fees having issued. She has expended upwards of 70,000*l.* during the last year, in the transportation of Emigrants to the Cape of Good Hope; a country in our opinion, not possessing one half the advantages to an Emigrant settler, that this does; if the high fees upon land were abolished; the whole of which might, by a just representation of this Colony to the government, be saved to her.

It is truly ridiculous to suppose that the members who compose the Cabinet of Great Britain would offer advantages to subjects emigrating to one part of her dominions, and throw every obstacle in the way of those proceeding to another; at a time, too, when they are holding out inducements

to proceed to both : something mysterious appears in the system, and which, we fear, cannot be developed but by a representation to his Majesty, or the Parliament of Great Britain.

Let us take a view of the situation of the unfortunate Man, who is unable to pay the fees on 100 Acres of Land. He is obliged to sign an agreement binding himself to the Government, that he never will apply for a further grant, or avail himself of an order from the Parent Government to obtain one ; and the Governor by his circular of the 21st. February, 1821, [not the Circular of the Governor in Council, but of the Governor himself,] cuts him off from obtaining a Lease of the Crown and Clergy Reserves, until he clears 35 Acres of the 50 received. Do not these regulations speak Volumes. They must come home to the bosom of every Man, whose bosom contains a heart not steeled against the tender impulse of humanity. There can be no Person, for the reasons we shall give, so prejudiced as not to admit their gross unfitness in this Colony. It is true, they do not make the Pauper, an outcast of Society, but he is fettered, he is chained, by being debarred of those privileges, which an alien, who might have fought against this Country, is entitled to receive, upon taking the Oath of Allegiance ; and yet a Man, a British Subject, a Person entitled to that appellation, by his birth, his demeanor in the fulfilment of his engagements to this Sovereign and Country, is to be excluded, because, by losses in trade, incurred, perhaps, without any imprudence, he is forced out of his rank in society ; or the expenses incurred during sickness, which many are subject to upon their arrival in this Country, he is unable to pay the fees chargeable upon 100 Acres of Land !!

Let us suppose the case of a Man in easy or affluent circumstances, induced, from the representations made by his acquaintances in this Country, or the false statements of Newspapers in England, one of which we shall lay before the public, and allured by the word grant, in Lord Bathurst's letter, the signature of Henry Goulbourn, and his Majesty's Seal affixed to it, to Emigrate to this Colony, he leaves that home, that soil whereon he enjoyed every comfort, in the hope of, (if not bettering the condition of himself) securing for the tender pledges of his affection a living, which the state of the Country he had left, from the falling off of trade, and excessive taxation, occasioned by a long and ruinous War, nipt the prospect of; he commits himself and family to the mercy of HIM who controls the Waves; he meets with a pleasant voyage till he becomes embanked in the St. Lawrence, when by the violence of adverse Wind, the Vessel is wrecked; he is obliged to abandon every thing but the lives of his Wife and Children which he thanks heaven for preserving; he proceeds to York, the place where we are now writing; he has no money to pay fees, and, to add to his sorrows, he finds that the Letter from Lord Bathurst, which kept lingering hope from ceasing in his bosom, was but a delusion; and, in this state of mental suffering, and of human misery, he is compelled (Oh, Heaven!) from dire and terrible necessity to sign *freely and willingly this humane document!!* What the feelings of the sufferer must be, at the moment he signs that instrument, is easier felt than described.—It may be said that it is almost impossible for such a case to exist as the one described, we say there is a possibility of it, and we further say, that we have known it to take place!

for the sufferer, in the agony of despair, described his situation, his trials, his lingering hopes, his poignant disappointments ; and he wept bitterly whilst he unfolded them, because he had those to provide for, which, to him, were more precious than life—a LOVELY FAMILY.

Where, we ask, is the justice or necessity for enforcing such a sacrifice ? which infuses into the visionary cup of happiness prepared by Lord Bathurst's Letter, a draught of the most bitter taste ; and which must oppress the springs of industry, and of hope, as much as it tends to bow down the noble, the lofty, and the elevated spirit of a British subject to the ground.

We live under a free Government, a Government, in our mind, that is superior to any that was ever formed ; and we must say, that it is matter of deep regret to us, that instruments which would not disgrace the Court of a Petty State in Europe, are, from their effects being unknown to the Government, in existence in a British Colony.

The restrictions imposed upon the unfortunate Emigrants who are unable to pay the fees on 100 acres of Land, may lead many to believe, that they are persons who mingled in those meetings, which convulsed society in several parts of England, and that it is the policy of the Government to send them out here under a delusive promise of Land, to get rid of them. This we are sure is not the case, for many of them, from information, and our acquaintance with others, set their faces against such proceedings. One, in particular, we had known some years ago to be placed in a commercial situation of respectability ; possessing a capital of 10,000/. and cheerfully paying in taxes to the King, at least 250/. per annum. In consequence of the sudden transi-

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tion from War to Peace, he, like many others, became ruined. In his seeking happiness in obscurity, he fixed upon this Country, and arrived without the means of paying fees, or, properly speaking, purchasing at an enormous price, at the rate Land now sells for 100 Acres of Land from the Government; and would have had to accept of the 50 Acres, with all their restrictions, unless meeting with a grateful friend, that knew him in his prosperity, who enabled him to pay the fees on a larger quantity. He entered the forest with his Axe on his shoulder, and, from the impossibility of obtaining medical aid during a fit of illness, he fell a victim to his disorder, leaving a Wife and three Children to deplore the calamity.

We have had put into our hands by Emigrants, two letters which they received from the Colonial Office, upon an application made for them by the Right Hon. Lord Maryborough, one of the Cabinet Ministers, who directed his agent to inform one of them, that the letter would enable the Lieut. Governor of Upper Canada, to put him in possession of Lands worth, at least 500/. These Emigrants were in easy circumstances; they could provide for their families in their native Country.—They had good farms, and humane Landlords; but having 15 children, they surrendered their leasehold property, under the impression of obtaining *gratuitously*, the right of soil in this. They, like many others, made great sacrifices to prepare for their embarkation, and their expences in coming to this Town amounted to 1300 dollars. However, the sale of their property appeared as nothing; their expenses, their severe trials, in the separation of friends, vanished before the happy contemplation of securing to their offspring 1200 Acres of Land, of which

they were one day to become not the Tenants, but the proprietors. They knew too, that they were to remain under that Government which never practiced a deception upon a Foreigner; much less upon a subject: they had the pledge of the Government for those Lands in Lord B's. letter.—They had, in fact, every thing to satisfy them that the exchange, however severe the trials, however great the sacrifices, would be as nothing when compared with the gift of his Majesty.

They arrived at the seat of the Lieut. Governor, presented their letters,* one of which we shall lay before our readers, and for the first time they were informed, that they would have granted to them the Land required upon payment of the trifling fees of 5s. sterling per Acre, taking and paying 2s. 6d. for the Oath of Allegiance, paying the fees of Office, and performing the Settlement duty ! !

We are sure no Person can read this Letter, without viewing the situation of the sufferers with

* "Downing-Street 12th. June, 1821.

" SIR,

" I am directed by Lord Bathurst to acquaint you, that he has given permission to the Bearer Mr. R. J. to proceed as a FREE SETTLER to the settlement of Upper Canada; and I am to desire, that you will make to him, upon his arrival, a GRANT of LAND, in proportion to the means which he may possess of bringing the same into cultivation.

" I am, Sir,

" Your most obed't. hbl'e. Serv't

" HENRY GOULBURN."

" To M. General Sir P. Maitland, K. C. B. or Officer Administering the Government of Upper Canada."

commisseration ; and we have no doubt that any Merchant who could be guilty of treating an individual in so ruinous a manner as this must appear, would before a Jury of his Country, have to pay weighty damages ; and we have bitterly to regret, that those Persons who have suffered, are deprived of the means of returning to England, to bring an action against Lord Bathurst.

It may only be necessary to state, in order to shew to the Public the baneful effects which those high fees and regulations have produced upon emigration, that a Gentleman holding a situation in the Lieut. Governor's Office relinquished it, in order to be appointed Commissioner for administering the Oath of Allegiance to Emigrants ; for here every Emigrant, no matter whether he had given proofs of his loyalty at Trafalgar or Waterloo, appears to be looked upon with suspicion upon applying for Land ; and has not only to apply for liberty to take the Oath of Allegiance, but pays for it when taken, the sum of half a dollar !—This regulation, we believe has continued since the period of the Revolution, but it should be dispensed with so far, at least, as relates to the Navy and Army ; particularly, as Americans who deserted their Country, and joined our ranks in the late War, are not compelled to take it. The profits of this Office were great when that Gentleman became the absolver of suspicion ; and great from what ? not because Great Britain was more distressed then, than she is at present ; not because her Subjects were more inclined to emigrate than they are at present ; not because it was less expensive to obtain a passage than it is at present ; not because our suffering Brethren were more desirous of enjoying the blessings of our incomparable constitution, than they are at pre-

sent ;—not because Lieut. Governor Gore was in England, and Lieut. Governor Maitland in this Colony, as the wise Men of the “flourishing town” of Brockville would have us believe ; but because, and the very best of causes, the reports sent home of the Fees being the same as when the former withdrew from the Government, were not contradicted.

But, what has been the fate of that Office since the news of the high fees, the Colonial remonstrance, and the shackling regulations with regard to Pauper Emigrants, spread thro’ Great Britain ? It is this, the profits of it were insufficient for the last 6 months, if we be rightly informed, to defray the expense of fuel and sweeping ! !

It may be asked, [and it is a question which has been often put to ourselves,] who is the author or authors, of the high fees charged upon the Lands of the Crown ? For ourselves we cannot answer ; altho’ we have heard since we commenced these strictures, that they were adopted, in the absence of his Excellency, upon the recommendation of one or two “*busy Persons*” in the Council. The Persons named, we must, indeed, acknowledge to be busy Gentlemen ; but busy from what ? —we will tell our readers, [for we speak from our own knowledge, and not from the hearsay of others :] busy in performing the most exalted acts of humanity—that of assisting the industrious—visiting the sick—clothing the naked—burying the dead, and administering consolation to the living. We cannot, therefore, imagine, that they have originated with them ; they are residents amongst us ; they suffer, as we said before, by the system ; and the interest they feel for their offspring, must lead them to oppose that which to every thinking

ing mind proves ruinous to the Country. Their stake in the Country is great. It is not their interest, nor can it be their wish to uphold the system. They can never as the heads of the Country, make use of the Colony, in the same manner that a Man does who takes a farm at a rack-rent. No, they are not Men, who, under the mask of charity and respectability, lurk in the bosom of society, wounding the People that nourish them, and shedding around them misery and despair.

We beg those readers who are strangers in the Country, may be pleased to inquire, what was the situation of this Colony during the years reasonable fees were charged, and when Government had to defray, by cash payments, the expense of surveying their lands. They will, we make no doubt, be told, that every Man, except the drunkard, or the indolent, was as unacquainted with poverty, as he was unaccustomed to the visits of the Sheriffs, or their deputies ; the Ports of Great Britain were open for our produce, at least for such part of it, as the Lower Canadian Merchants were, from the scanty supply afforded by their friends in the States, under the necessity of purchasing ; but now that the Ports are closed ; now when a Farmer cannot raise upon an improved Estate, sufficient to defray the charges of his labourers ; now when it cannot be denied, that the transportation of any quantity of Flour or Pork from this Town, to the most convenient Lands Government has to "bestow," costs more than the transportation of an equal quantity would amount to, in sending it to England, and from England to the West Indies. Is it honourable ? Is it just ? Is it humane to subject the stranger, who must have contributed largely in support of the Mother Country in her expensive

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War, to fees treble in amount to what had been heretofore paid ? and at a time, too, when Government is at no expense whatever for the surveying of Lands.

Every thing we see and look into convinces us of the necessity of the immediate reduction of those high fees ; and the abolition of the galling and impolitic regulations with regard to Pauper Emigrants ; as also the Oath of Allegiance to those who have served his Majesty in any capacity ; and of their being proclaimed, by our Provincial Agent, throughout Great Britain—Indeed, we would go further ; we would wish our representatives to address his Majesty to order, at least, a proportion of the high fees already paid, to be refunded.—If the Government feel a real interest in the welfare of this Colony, which no one can doubt ; if it be their desire to increase our population, and prevent rich, industrious, and enterprising subjects, from proceeding to the United States, they must establish regulations very different from the present—regulations, which must in their effects, *not only promote true religion, but add to those means which tend to the improvement, convenience, and happiness of the People.*

The evils which afflict a nation, are, to be removed by the means which flow from the Government.—But, why we ask, have those evils existed so long, without the Government's remedying them ?—The answer is simple, the truth of which must come home to every Man. It is this, the Persons selected to represent this Country in former Parliaments, were ignorant of the powers they possessed, or, knowing them, they did not act up to the spirit of the constitution. If they had, would not an account of the enormous sums paid by Emigrants for

Lands promised, in the most solemn manner, by Lord Bathurst to be granted to them, as free settlers, be laid before his Majesty? Would not that disgraceful traffick, which has been carried on for years between Lower Canada and the United States, be put a stop to?—a traffick which in it's effects to this Colony, proves a scourge equal to the barrenness of the soil! Would not our Sister Province be obliged to disgorge the sixty thousand pounds which she fraudulently withholds from us? Would not the author of the remonstrance spoken of by the Chancellor of the Exchequer—a remonstrance which we conceive to be nothing short of a gross insult to the Government of this Province, an offence against the King, and treason against the People, be brought before the Public, and punished for his treachery?

Where, we ask, can be found, an instance, in modern times, of a private Person or a junto of Persons, in a clandestine manner, counteracting the public declarations of a Government? It is true, it appears we have met with it, unfortunately met with it, in the speech of his Excellency, and the language of Mr. Vansittart, which we have already so fully pointed out.

What can be so monstrous, or what can tend so powerfully to sever the link of affection which should always exist betwixt the Government and the People, than that which plainly tells the People, in strong language, language not to be misunderstood, that the professions of our Government were insincere, or, that, there was some unknown power which defeated it's intentions by the most foul, and wicked representations.

But, in a case like this, jaundiced as it is, there is a cure; and we know most of our readers are in

possession of the recipe. That cure lies in a great measure within ourselves. His late Majesty conferred upon us a blessing, which few nations in Europe can boast of. He gave us a Parliament, and for what? To protect our rights, and ameliorate our condition; and with this power we not only can exhibit to public view, the Person or Persons who sent that remonstrance to the British Government, but punish him or them for their iniquity.

If we are not able to accomplish this most desirable of all objects, it is our own faults, and not the fault of the Government, or his Majesty. They are innocent of the evils we complain—we are the authors of them—for had we selected Men for our representatives, [and we trust we have] worthy of the honorable situation, in which they are placed, the next Session would not pass away without an address to his Majesty, upon the subject.

It may be asked, where is the necessity for such a proceeding as the one suggested. We answer—Look to the joint petitions of both Houses sent home last Session, for the purpose of obtaining redress for those who suffered in their property during the late war. Look to the joint recommendation of both Houses to his Majesty, to provide with half pay, those heroes, who, in the midst of fire and carnage, defended our houses from the ravages of a cruel and unrelenting enemy. What must be their hopes? How are their sanguine and just expectations to be realized? if a power—a secret confederacy exist within our Colony, to counteract the intentions of our Government, and deafen the ears of Royal humanity to the prayers and supplications of a brave and suffering People!!!

After placing those things, which we consider to operate as great and powerful barriers against

the happiness of the Emigrant, and the prosperity of the Country, fairly and fully before the People of this Province, can it be supposed that the gentlemen whom we have honoured as our choice to represent us in Parliament, will not take them up fearlessly next Session. If they do not, who can say that they will have fulfilled the reasonable expectations of their Constituents? Can they sit silently on subjects which involve the dearest, the noblest interests of humanity, and of man? Will they hesitate exposing to public view the traffickers in human misery, who, in the face of the Governor's addresses, sent home a remonstrance fraught with such gross injustice to the Emigrants and the Country? If they do, what has the Colony to expect? How are the hopes of the sufferers in the late war to be realized? when we have it before our eyes that there is a power in this Colony, which sets at naught, in his Majesty's Councils, the public declarations of his Excellency and Council.

We cherish the hope that they will act as Men, and as Men who know the blessings of the Constitution they live under; and that nothing will dismay them in the discharge of their duty, to bring to light those deeds and avert those evils, which have occasioned the forest to be watered with tears, and Heaven to be unceasingly implored by the cries of the innocent and deluded sufferers.

Since writing the above, we have been asked, why we did not submit our observations on the state of the Colony, to some Member of the Government, before giving them to the Public. It may not, therefore, be unnecessary to state, that we did, months ago, enclose to his Excellency our observations upon the Land granting system. We used our utmost endeavours to bring them before Par-

Mament last Session; and, if the Governor did not think proper to notice our letter; if the Members with whom we conversed, and who admitted the justice of our observations, did not feel it their duty to bring them before the House of Assembly, we are sure no blame can be attached to us, in our humble endeavours to place them before that power, which never closed its ears against the supplications of the subject.

We have, we believe, convinced every unprejudiced mind, that our present distresses are almost entirely owing to the high fees paid by Emigrants, and the monopoly "granted," as the word is understood in Great Britain, to the American farmers, and Lumber Merchants; and it is a pleasure to state, that we have it in our power to point out the means by which they may be alleviated. To effect this desirable object, the Government has only to act on a system precisely the reverse of that by which the public distresses have been produced:—namely, an immediate reduction of those high fees, and a total stoppage of the importation of Flour and Lumber into Lower Canada from the United States. These things adopted will put to flight the evils by which the Colony is assailed, and restore wealth and prosperity to all classes of the community.

We shall, in the hope of convincing Mr. Vansjart, and Sir Isaac Coffin, lay before the Public a very simple statement, which we conceive sufficient to satisfy any Man that the Emigrants are not a grievance to the Government or the People.

His Excellency, in his speech, stated, that 42 Townships were surveyed and given out to actual settlers. This answered a very good purpose at the time. It was pleasing to some of our friends;

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and we hope it will not be unpleasant to their feelings, if we make it answer a purpose which, perhaps, they never had in contemplation. Acres.

There are in each Township	66,000
From which we deduct for Clergy, Crown, and Surveyors' Lands	22,000
	44,000

By the above it appears that there are 44,000 Acres, in each Township, subject to the Fees laid down in schedule A.

But, to be under the mark, we will suppose two of these Townships to have been given out to Pauper Emigrants, four to U. E. Loyalists, and six to Naval and Military Claimants, who are exempt from the payment of the Fees in schedule A.— This reduces the number of Townships to 30, which, if located according to the present fees, in lots of 100 Acres each, bring in to the Government £ 158,400

If in Lots of 200 Acres each	198,000
Ditto 300 ditto	264,000
Ditto 400 ditto	247,500

Ditto 500 ditto or upwards	350,000
which sums added together, and divided by five, give an average of	239,580

Besides this, there is the Patent Fee of £ 3 5s. upon the issuing of every Deed; and in calculating this, we must include the Lands granted to the Navy and Army, who are charged with it; and proceed upon a scale of Thirty-six Townships, which, if given out in lots of 100 Acres each, bring into the Governor or his Officers £ 51,480

If in Lots of 200 Acres each	25,740
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Ditto 300 ditto	17,160
which latter sum, trifling as it may appear in the eyes of some Gentlemen, if appropriated to the	

purchasing of Cows, would be the means at the present low price, of distributing 7,000 amongst the miserable settlers!!

The sum paid *annually* by the British Government in support of the civil Administration of this Colony, amounts to £. 11,300 ; and in two years, she receives, or must receive at some early period, from the pockets of the most distressed People in the Country—People who are represented as a grievance to the Government, the sum of £. 239,580! the whole of which is, we *presume* sent out of this Colony, and appropriated, it appears, to purposes unknown to the British Parliament, or the enlightened Parliament of *this* Country.

Is this, we ask, the only system that could have been devised to "*promote true religion?*" Is this the only plan that could have been adopted for "*adding to those means, which tend to the instruction, convenience, and happiness of the People?*" Is this a proof of the "*Emigrants*' being a *grievance* to the Government and the People?" Is this the Mill-Stone that is hung round the Neck of Great Britain, and for which the "*Colony* should be sunk in the Ocean?" If so, who are the authors of the grievance? Not, we presume, the Emigrants themselves; but those *humane* Gentlemen, whoever they may be, that suffer, by the selling of Lands under the delusive term of Fees, and the fatigue they undergo in receiving the money!!

We do not say that Sir P. Maitland is the author of those high Fees; we are sure, from circumstances, the Council have not occasioned their exaction; but this we say, without the fear of contradiction, that, during no former Administration have they been carried to so great an extent,

or increased with such rapidity: The Clergy and Crown Reserves which rented at 3, 6, and 9 dollars a year in 1819, were increased to 7, 14, and 21 in 1820. The Fees upon a grant of 200 Acres of Land during the Administration of the late Governor were, 37 1-2 dollars. Since his departure, they have been increased to £. 30 sterling, besides a Patent Fee of £. 3 5s. And what have this rapidity, and increase effected? They have, we are sorry to say, coupled with the nefarious trade carried on between Lower Canada and the United States, impoverished the Country, and flooded the new Townships with murmurings and misery.

During the last Session, that wonderful bug-bear—the 44th. of the King occupied the House some days.—It raised the popularity of some, and confirmed the patriotism of others; but when compared to those evils which we have so plainly pointed out, what is the contrast? It is that of a Mote to a Mountain, a River to an Ocean, or an atom to the whole Nation. We do not mean to argue that there is no necessity for the repeal of that Act; we do not mean to say that no Subject suffered by it; and, for ought we know, suffered unjustly; but this we say, it's consequences to the Country are as nothing, when compared with that which effects the whole. The fire of that Act may be evaded by every Man; but no Man escapes the Chain-Shot of the Fees. They, like the Grave, level all ranks and conditions. Those who owed their orphanage to Trafalgar, or Waterloo, share the same fate as the Cato-Street conspirator. Neither age, virtue, vice, loyalty, or disloyalty, is a shield from their grasp!! We love liberty as much as the advocates for the repeal of that Act; we feel tho' bitter strangers, for the misfortunes of the Gentle-

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man who suffered under it's enactments ; but we never can put his sufferings in competition with the sufferings of thousands.

We therefore hope that those Hon. Gentlemen who advocated the repeal of that Act, on account of the sufferings of a single individual, however respectable, will see the necessity of advocating the cause of those who have been deprived, because of their poverty, of a voice in that House, or the prospect of obtaining one !!

If they do not, will they deserve the thanks of the Country ? No—Their claim to applause will be the same as that of a Physician who trifles away his time in taking a pimple from off the face of a Patient, whilst a rapid and deadly disease approaches the heart. The thanks which will be due to them are the same, as are due to a man, who runs to extinguish the fire of a Hog-Stye, whilst a Family is enveloped in the flames of a mansion. Or one who pulls a thorn out of the finger of his friend, whilst he neglects rolling a millstone from off his body. Yes, this will be thanks such conduct will merit ; and which we will not fail of exposing to the public.

We now, for the present, close our remarks upon this most important of all subjects to the Colony; regretting our inability to do it that justice which the nature of it might require; but trusting that his Excellency, or our representatives will do something to remove those evils of which we complain ; and thereby satisfy some of the Members of the British Parliament, that they have the ability and spirit to support those rights, which have been graciously conferred, and continued to us by the illus- trious House of Brunswick.

We again look to our Representatives, as our er-

gans, to point out and endeavour to redress our grievances. Surely they that can debate for days upon the reduction of a miserable Salary.—They that can see the shadow of abuses in past administrations.—They that are compelled no doubt, from patriotic motives, to assail Governors, and gentlemen, who are not *here* to defend themselves. They who state that former Parliaments were stupid and corrupt.—They that possess the *wisdom* of sending delegates to England, to obtain what *we* do not understand; nor, really, what they themselves can explain. They who think it right to withhold the Pensions from the brave and deserving Officers, will, we trust, as the Honourable and enlightened guardians of our liberties, and our happiness, after debating upon all those minor and *praise worthy* subjects, have sufficient vision left to see those great and appalling evils, which press down and dispirit the majority of the Country.

FALSE STATEMENTS IN BELL'S WEEKLY MESSENGER.

Land to Settlers in Canada.

A proprietor to a very small extent, is qualified to vote for a Representative in the House of Assembly, or to become a Representative there.

Expenses on taking possession, &c. About £. 3 for every 200 Acres for making out the Patent, &c. !

Land can be cleared at about £. 2 per Acre !!!

"Executive Council Office,
York, 14th Dec. 1819.

"Whereas, it is desirable to alleviate the situation of the poorer classes of settlers by an exemption from any charge on the Patent Deed, and also to remove all obstacles from the more free accommoda-

tion of others with larger grants, than have been usually made: His Excellency the Lieutenant Governor in Council, has been pleased to order that the first mentioned class of settlers may receive a gratuitous Grant of Fifty Acres, under exclusion be it understood from any further Grant from the Crown, but with liberty to Lease the Reserves.

The Grantee will be required to clear one half of the Road in front of each Lot, and the depth of two and one half Chains from the Road the whole length of every Lot, and erect a Dwelling House.

TABLE.

Upon all Grants of Land issuing under orders in Council, bearing date subsequent to the 1st January 1820, the following sums will be paid by the Patentee:

Schedule A.	L. Sterling
On Grants of 50 Acres.	
On Grants of 100 Acres, : : : : .	12 : :
On Grants of 200 Acres,	30 : :
On Grants of 300 Acres,	60 : :
On Grants of 400 Acres,	75 : :
On Grants of 500 Acres,	125 : :
On Grants of 600 Acres,	150 : :
On Grants of 700 Acres,	175 : :
On Grants of 800 Acres,	200 : :
On Grants of 900 Acres,	225 : :
On Grants of 1000 Acres,	250 : :
On Grants of 1100 Acres,	275 : :
On Grants of 1200 Acres,	300 : :

In three equal Instalments—The first on receipt of the Location Ticket, The second on Certificate filed of Settlement, The third on receipt of the Fiat for the Patent.

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F I N I S.

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